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UNCLASSIFIED

DESKBY FCU 080800Z
DESKBY EAST BERLIN 080800Z
DESKBY SINGAPORE 080800Z

FM MOSCOW 080530Z APR 85

TO IMMEDIATE FCU

TELEGRAM NUMBER 473 OF 8TH APRIL 85

AND TO IMMEDIATE EAST BERLIN (FOR S OF S'S PARTY)
IMMEDIATE SINGAPORE (FOR PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY)

INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, UKDIS GENEVA, MODUK (DS17)
PRIORITY PARIS, BONN, OTHER EAST EUROPEAN POSTS.

INFO SAVING UKDEL CDE STOCKHOLM, UKDEL VIENNA, TOKYO, HELSINKI.

YOUR TELNO 349 (NOT TO ALL); ANNOUNCEMENT BY GORBACHEV OF MORATORIUM
ON DEPLOYMENT OF MEDIUM RANGE WEAPONS.

1. TEXT OF GORBACHEV'S INTERVIEW WITH PRAVDA (INCLUDING HIS
MORATORIUM ANNOUNCEMENT), BROADCAST ON SOVIET TELEVISION ON
THE EVENING OF 7 APRIL AND PUBLISHED IN PRAVDA ON 8 APRIL, IS
AS FOLLOWS:

TASS TEXT BEGINS:-

QUESTION. PRAVDA IS GETTING MANY LETTERS, FROM SOVIET PEOPLE
AND FROM ABROAD, DEVOTED TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. HOW WOULD
YOU, MIKHAIL SERGEYEVICH, CHARACTERISE THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL
SITUATION?

ANSWER. I UNDERSTAND THE INCREASED INTEREST THAT PEOPLE HAVE IN
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. THE BROAD POPULAR MASSES IN ALL
CONTINENTS STRIVE ACTIVELY TO INFLUENCE THE DESTINY OF THE PRESENT
WORLD. AND THIS IS NOT BY CHANCE. THE WORLD IS FULL OF COMPLEX
PROBLEMS - POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL. THERE DO REALLY
EXIST TWO OPPOSITE SOCIAL SYSTEMS - SOCIALISM AND CAPITALISM.
DOZENS OF NEW STATES WITH THEIR OWN HISTORY, TRADITIONS AND THEIR
OWN INTERESTS ARE ACTIVE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA, AND THIS,
TOO, IS A REALITY. IN ORDER TO DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
IN THE PRESENT-DAY WORLD ONE CANNOT BUT TAKE THIS INTO ACCOUNT,
ONE MUST NOT IGNORE THE INTERESTS OF OTHER STATES AND THE MORE SO
TRY TO DENY THEM THEIR RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR ROAD OF DEVELOPMENT
THEMSELVES. IN THE BROAD CONTEXT THIS EXACTLY IS THE POLICY OF
PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE UNDER WHICH EACH OF THE SYSTEMS WILL PROVE
BY STRENGTH OF EXAMPLE AND NOT BY STRENGTH OF ARMS WHICH OF THEM
IS BETTER. ANOTHER CONCLUSION, WHICH IS JUST AS URGENT, IS THE
NECESSITY TO END THE ARMS RACE. THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE / INTERNATIONAL

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INTERNATIONAL SITUATION HAS REACHED A LINE WHEN THE QUESTION ARISES: WHERE FURTHER CAN WE GO, IS IT NOT TIME FOR THOSE WHO SHAPE THE POLICY OF STATES TO STOP, THINK AND PREVENT THE ADOPTION OF DECISIONS THAT WOULD PUSH THE WORLD TO NUCLEAR CATASTROPHE. THERE IS AN ACUTE NEED OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN DEVELOPING DIALOGUE, IN SEARCHING FOR REALISTIC SOLUTIONS THAT WOULD EASE TENSION IN THE WORLD AND HELP BLOCK THE ROAD OF THE ARMS RACE. ALL STATES, BIG AND SMALL, SHOULD TAKE PART IN THIS. QUITE UNDERSTANDABLY, A SPECIAL ROLE BELONGS TO NUCLEAR POWERS AND FIRST OF ALL TO THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. OUR COUNTRY HAS PURSUED AND WILL PURSUE A VIGOROUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE FOREIGN POLICY IN THE NAME OF STRENGTHENING PEACE. THIS WAS CONFIRMED AT THE RECENT PLENARY MEETING OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE AT WHICH THE SOVIET STATE'S FOREIGN POLICY PRINCIPLES WERE OUTLINED.

QUESTION. MUCH IS BEING ASSOCIATED IN THE WORLD WITH THE STATE OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. HAVE THERE APPEARED, IN YOUR OPINION, POSSIBILITIES OF THEIR CHANGE FOR THE BETTER?

ANSWER. THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE USA ARE AN EXCEPTIONALLY IMPORTANT FACTOR OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. BUT WE ARE FAR FROM LOOKING AT THE WORLD ONLY THROUGH THE PRISM OF THESE RELATIONS. WE UNDERSTAND WHAT THE WEIGHT IS OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND TAKE THIS INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN EVALUATING THE GENERAL SITUATION IN THE WORLD. ARE THERE NOW ANY CHANGES FOR THE BETTER IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS? THERE IS NO SIMPLE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION. SOMETHING GIVES REASON FOR HOPE BUT THERE STILL IS A LOT AND EVEN PLENTY OF WHAT INSTILLS ALARM. NEW SOVIET-AMERICAN TALKS ON NUCLEAR AND SPACE ARMS HAVE BEGUN IN GENEVA. THIS IS A POSITIVE FACT. JOINTLY WITH THE UNITED STATES WE DEFINED THE SUBJECT AND AIMS OF THE TALKS AND, TO PUT IT BRIEFLY, DEFINED THEM AS FOLLOWS: NOT TO START AN ARMS RACE IN SPACE, STOP IT ON EARTH AND TO START A RADICAL REDUCTION OF NUCLEAR ARMS, THEIR TOTAL LIQUIDATION BEING THE ULTIMATE AIM. NOW IT IS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THIS ACCORD. THE TALKS ARE IMPORTANT ONES. I AM SAYING THIS FIRST OF ALL BECAUSE THE DIRECTION OF THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND WORLD DEVELOPMENT AS A WHOLE IS NOW BEING DECIDED. THE CHOICE IS AS FOLLOWS: EITHER AN ARMS RACE ALONG ALL DIRECTIONS, A GROWTH OF THE WAR DANGER, OR STRENGTHENING OF UNIVERSAL SECURITY, A MORE DURABLE PEACE FOR ALL. THERE ARE SOME SHIFTS IN OTHER FIELDS OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, BUT VERY SMALL ONES. ON THE WHOLE RELATIONS REMAIN TENSE. THEY IN WASHINGTON ARE BANKING ON STRENGTH, AND NOT CONCEALING THIS. AND THEY ARE COUNTING ON SUPERIOR STRENGTH THAT WOULD SUBORDINATE THE REST OF THE WORLD TO AMERICA. DIPLOMACY AND TALKS THERE ARE VIRTUALLY SUBORDINATED TO MISSILES AND BOMBERS. FOR IT IS A FACT THAT THE NEW STRATEGIC ARMS PROGRAMMES ARE BEING PUSHED THROUGH CONGRESS, AMONG OTHERS, ALSO BY THE PEOPLE WHO ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES ARE CONDUCTING THE TALKS IN GENEVA. EVERYBODY HAS HEARD QUITE A LOT ABOUT THE 'STAR WARS' PLANS ANNOUNCED BY THE UNITED

STATES ADMINISTRATION. THE TERMINOLOGY APPEARS TO BE TAKEN FROM SCIENCE FICTION BUT IT IS ATTEMPTED TO USE IT AS A SCREEN TO CONCEAL THE REAL AND GRAVE DANGER TO OUR PLANET. I WOULD DESCRIBE AS FANTASTIC THE ARGUMENTS USED TO SUBSTANTIATE THE MILITARISATION OF OUTER SPACE. THEY SPEAK OF DEFENCE BUT PREPARE FOR ATTACK, THEY ADVERTISE THE SPACE SHIELD BUT ARE FORGING A SPACE SWORD, THEY PROMISE TO LIQUIDATE NUCLEAR ARMS BUT IN PRACTICE BUILD UP THESE ARMS AND PERFECT THEM. THEY PROMISE THE WORLD STABILITY BUT IN REALITY STRIVE TO WRECK THE MILITARY BALANCE. SINCE PEOPLE INTUITIVELY FEEL THE DANGER OF THE 'STAR WARS' PLANS THE AUTHORS OF THESE PLANS WANT TO MAKE THEM BELIEVE THAT THESE PLANS SUPPOSEDLY AMOUNT TO NOTHING MORE THAN HARMLESS RESEARCH, WHICH, MOREOVER, SUPPOSEDLY HOLDS PROMISE OF TECHNOLOGICAL BENEFITS. BY USING THIS BAIT THE AUTHORS OF THESE PLANS WANT TO TURN THEIR ALLIES ALSO INTO ACCOMPLICES IN THIS DANGEROUS PROJECT. IT IS EVEN CONTENDED THAT BY WAY OF CREATING SPACE ARMS IT IS SUPPOSEDLY POSSIBLE TO ARRIVE AT THE LIQUIDATION OF NUCLEAR ARMS. A FRAUDULENT METHOD. JUST AS THE APPEARANCE OF NUCLEAR ARMS DID NOT ELIMINATE CONVENTIONAL TYPES OF ARMS AND ONLY GENERATED AN ACCELERATED RACE IN THE MANUFACTURE OF BOTH NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL ARMS, THE CREATION OF SPACE ARMS WILL HAVE ONLY ONE RESULT - THE ARMS RACE WILL BECOME EVEN MORE INTENSIVE AND ENCOMPASS NEW SPHERES. IT SINGLED OUT THE MOMENTS WHICH IN THE FIRST TURN COMPLICATE SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, SOMETIMES BRINGING THEM TO THE BRINK OF ACUTE TENSION. BUT IT APPEARS THAT THERE ARE SOME IN THE UNITED STATES WHO REGARD SUCH A STATE OF AFFAIRS AS A NORMAL ONE AND VIEW CONFRONTATION AS ALMOST A NATURAL STATE. WE DO NOT THINK SO. CONFRONTATION IS NOT AN INBORN DEFECT OF OUR RELATIONS. IT IS RATHER AN ANOMALY. THERE IS NO INEVITABILITY AT ALL OF ITS CONTINUATION. WE REGARD THE IMPROVEMENT OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS NOT ONLY AS AN EXTREMELY NECESSARY BUT ALSO AS A POSSIBLE MATTER. BUT, OF COURSE, ONE CANNOT DO WITHOUT RECIPROCALITY HERE.

QUESTION. THERE IS MUCH INTEREST IN THE QUESTION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF YOUR MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS HERE?

ANSWER. THE QUESTION OF SUCH A MEETING WAS DEALT WITH IN MY CORRESPONDENCE WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN. I CAN SAY THAT A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TO SUCH A MEETING BEING HELD WAS EXPRESSED FROM BOTH SIDES. ITS TIME AND PLACE WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF SUBSEQUENT ARRANGEMENT. IN THE BROADER PLANE THE CORRESPONDENCE DEALT WITH THE FINDING OF JOINT WAYS OF IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE USA AND IMPARTING A MORE STABLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE NATURE TO THEM. I AM CONVINCED THAT A SERIOUS IMPULSE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS AT A HIGH POLITICAL LEVEL. WE OFFER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO CONDUCT THE MATTER IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT WOULD BE SEEN TO ALL OUR PEOPLES, TO OTHER COUNTRIES THAT THE POLITICAL COURSES OF THE USSR AND THE UNITED STATES ARE ORIENTED NOT AT HOSTILITY AND CONFRONTATION BUT AT THE SEARCH OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT.

QUESTION. FROM WHAT YOU HAVE SAID, MIKHAIL SERGEYEVICH, IT FOLLOWS THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO WORK ON A BROAD FRONT. BUT STILL, WHAT DO YOU REGARD AS THE MAIN LEVER FOR ACHIEVING A BREAKTHROUGH?

ANSWER. INTENSIVE MUTUAL EFFORTS, AND INDEED EFFORTS ON A BROAD FRONT. MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING ON THE NEED TO FACILITATE THE SETTLEMENT OF CONFLICT SITUATIONS IN THE WORLD WOULD HAVE A BENEFICIAL INFLUENCE ON OUR AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. MUCH, AND TO MUTUAL BENEFIT, CAN BE DONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL TIES BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE UNITED STATES. BUT STILL, WHAT YOU CALLED THE MAIN LEVER LIES IN THE SPHERE OF SECURITY. WHAT COULD BE A CONCRETE BEGINNING HERE? IF ONE HAS TAKEN ONE'S SEAT AT THE TABLE TO NEGOTIATE ARMS REDUCTIONS THEN ONE SHOULD AT LEAST REFRAIN FROM INCREASING THEM FURTHER. THAT IS WHY WE PROPOSE THAT THE USSR AND THE USA INTRODUCE FOR THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE TALKS A MORATORIUM ON THE DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING RESEARCH, TESTING AND DEVELOPING OF STRIKE SPACE ARMS AND FREEZE THEIR STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. AT THE SAME TIME THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN INTERMEDIATE RANGE MISSILES IN EUROPE SHOULD BE TERMINATED AND, CORRESPONDINGLY, THE BUILDUP OF OUR REPLY MEASURES. THE AMERICAN LEADERS ARE DECLARING THAT THEY ARE FOR RADICAL REDUCTIONS OF ARMAMENTS. IF THAT IS SO, IT WOULD BE LOGICAL FIRST TO PUT A BRAKE ON THE ARMS RACE AND THEN IMMEDIATELY TO GO OVER TO ARMS REDUCTIONS. WE ARE FOR AN HONEST DIALOGUE. WE ARE PREPARED TO DEMONSTRATE OUR GOODWILL AGAIN. AND STARTING WITH THIS DAY, AND I WANT TO EMPHASISE THIS, THE SOVIET UNION IS INTRODUCING A MORATORIUM ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF ITS INTERMEDIATE RANGE MISSILES AND SUSPENDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHER REPLY MEASURES IN EUROPE. THE DURATION OF THE MORATORIUM IS TILL NOVEMBER OF THIS YEAR. THE DECISION WE WILL MAKE AFTER THAT DEPENDS ON WHETHER THE UNITED STATES FOLLOWS OUR EXAMPLE: WILL IT STOP OR NOT THE DEPLOYMENT OF ITS INTERMEDIATE RANGE MISSILES IN EUROPE. SUMMING UP, I WILL SAY THE FOLLOWING. THERE EXIST POSSIBILITIES OF IMPROVING THE GENERAL INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. THESE POSSIBILITIES SHOULD NOT BE MISSED. THEY SHOULD BE DIRECTED INTO THE PLANE OF CONCRETE POLICIES AND PRACTICAL DECISIONS.

TASS TEXT ENDS

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